

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church

An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland



LAKE PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP

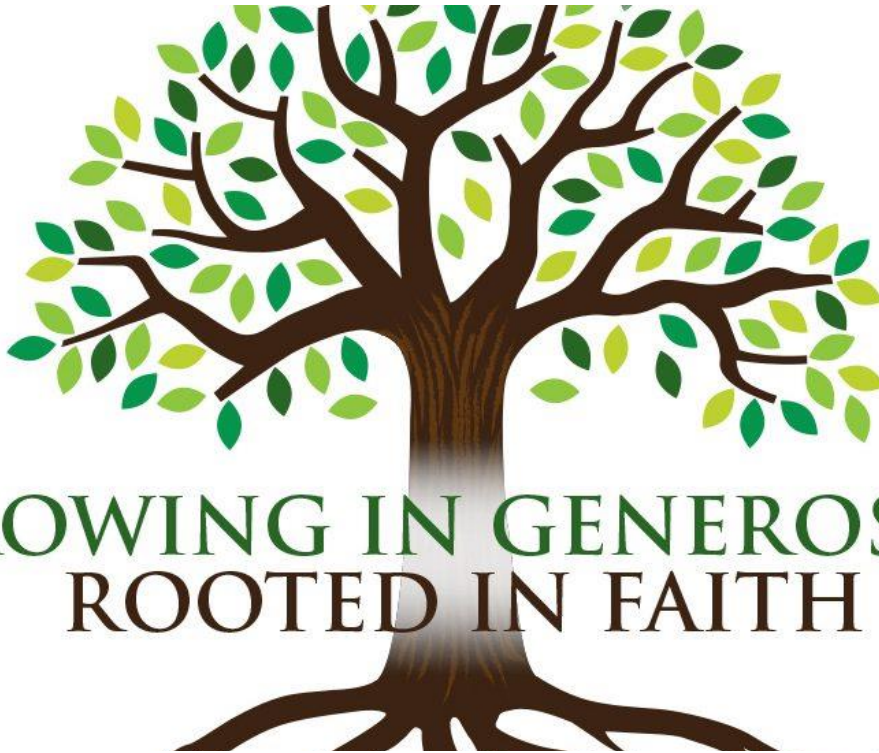
Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.

(510) 465-4793

www.lakemerrittumc.org

1255 First Avenue

Oakland, CA 94606



**GROWING IN GENEROSITY
ROOTED IN FAITH**

Stewardship Sunday
God's Promise of Abundance

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

pastor@lakemerrittumc.org

Jim Meredith, *Music Director*

jimmeredith@mac.com

Randi Hoy, *Church Administrator*

office@lakemerrittumc.org

May 21, 2023
Ascension Sunday
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

INTROIT

Many Gifts, One Spirit

LMUMC Bell Choir

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Patty Staggs

Leader: Here we worship the God of Abundance.

People: Here we hear of God's goodness and love.

Leader: Here we are challenged to love and live as God's children.

People: Here we put our faith in action.

Leader: Here we hear God's word.

People: Here we share our time and talents.

Leader: Here we see each other as God's children.

People: Here we eat at Christ's table.

Leader: Here we splash in the waters of baptism.

People: Here we sing praises and laments to our God.

Leader: Here we know we are loved.

People: Here we know we are loved. Amen.

Teaandtheology.com

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

God is Good, All the Time W&S 3026

1. God is good, God is good all the time.

God is good, God is good all the time.

In our doubts, hopes and fears, joys and tears,

God is good, God is good all the time.

2. God is good, God is good all the time.

God is good, God is good all the time.

When there's no one to share our despair,

God is good, God is good all the time.

3. God is good, God is good all the time.

God is good, God is good all the time.

When there's love to be found all around,

God is good, God is good all the time.

4. God is good, God is good all the time.

God is good, God is good all the time.

When our sorrows we bring, let us sing:

God is good, God is good all the time.

5. God is good, God is good all the time.

God is good, God is good all the time.

As our thanks and our praise now we raise,

God is good, God is good all the time.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 18:13-23 NIV

Patty Staggs

The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"

Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions."

Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. But select capable men from all the people – men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain – and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

Philippians 4:19 NIV

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

RESPONSE

Spirit of the Living God UMH 393 (ORGAN)

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God,

Fall afresh on me.

SERMON

*"GOD'S PROMISE OF ABUNDANCE"*Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

Kate Wilson

Lisa Radspinner

RESPONSE

We, Thy People, Praise Thee UMH 67, verse 2 (ORGAN)

We, thy people, praise thee,

Praise thee, God of every nation!

We thy people praise thee,

Praise thee, Lord of Hosts eternal!

For thy blessings, for thy bounty,

Joyful songs to thee we sing,

Songs of glory, songs of triumph

To our God and King.

We, thy people, praise thee,

Praise thee, praise thee evermore!

PRAYERS & GRATITUDES

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ecumenical Version (UMH 894)

*Please feel free to use the name of your choice for God that speaks to your soul.

*Our *Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIVING AS THE CHURCH

OFFERING & THANKSGIVING SONG

What Gift Can We Bring UMH 87, verses 1, 4

1. What gift can we bring, what present, what token?
What words can convey it the joy of this day?
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
what song can we now offer in honor and praise?
4. This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise.

CLOSING SONG

For the Beauty of the Earth

(Please stand if able)

UMH 92, verses 1, 4, 5, 6 (ORGAN)

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.
4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.
5. For thy church, that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

6. For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

CLOSING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Patty Staggs

All: Lord Jesus Christ,
creator and giver of the light of each day;
we bless you for your generous gifts,
and thank you for the time, talents, money,
and possessions you have entrusted to us.
May we use them wisely in your service. Amen.

Dioceseofyork.org

POSTLUDE

Meditation on 'O Store Gud' (ORGAN)

arr. Lani Smith